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**From:** Lotthammer, Shannon (MPCA) [shannon.lotthammer@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2019 7:54:34 PM  
**To:** Thiede, Kurt [thiede.kurt@epa.gov]; Holst, Linda [holst.linda@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Gauthier, Greta (MPCA) [greta.gauthier@state.mn.us]  
**Subject:** MPCA statement regarding PolyMet comments

Hi Kurt and Linda –

Wanted you to be aware of the following statement we've developed in response to recent reports that the MPCA asked EPA Region 5 Chicago to suppress comments on the PolyMet NPDES permit:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency did not, at any time, ask EPA to suppress or withhold comments on the Polymet NPDES permit. We knew that following the public comment process our permitting staff would be making revisions to the draft permit based on public comments, so we recommended that EPA share their comments after that revision. This is not outside the norm of the MPCA-EPA relationship, and has happened with other permits.

Although EPA did not send written comments during the public comment period, EPA staff and MPCA permitting staff were in regular contact before, during and after the drafting and issuance of the permit. There were 5 meetings with EPA, including an in-person meeting in St. Paul, as well as multiple phone calls after the public comment period. During these meetings and calls, EPA did engage and comment, and MPCA did make changes to the permit based on those comments.

We have shared this with staff from our congressional delegation, and will be sharing it with others who inquire about this matter.

Thank you,  
Shannon

Shannon Lotthammer  
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